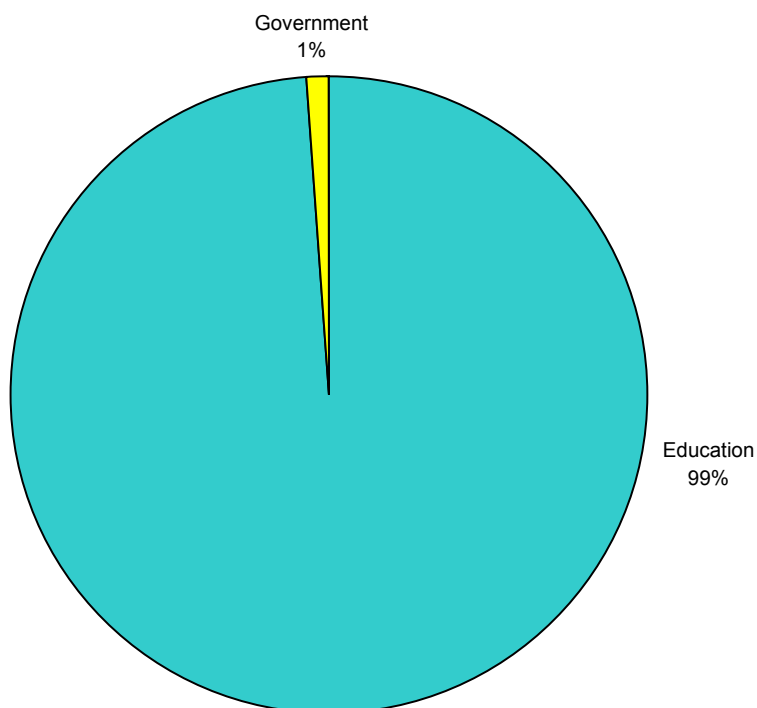


### Job Description

Teachers act as facilitators or coaches, using interactive discussions and “hands-on” learning to help students learn and apply concepts. As teachers move away from the traditional repetitive drill approaches and rote memorization, they are using more “props” or “manipulatives” to help children understand abstract concepts, solve problems, and develop critical thought processes. For example, they teach the concepts of numbers or adding and subtracting by playing board games. Elementary school teachers play a vital role in the development of children. What children learn and experience during their early years can shape their views of themselves and the world, and affect later success or failure in school, work, and their personal lives. Preschool, kindergarten, and elementary school teachers introduce children to numbers, language, science, and social studies. They may use games, music, artwork, films, books, computers, and other tools to teach basic skills. Most elementary school teachers instruct one class of children in several subjects. In some schools, two or more teachers work as a team and are jointly responsible for a group of students in at least one subject. In other schools, a teacher may teach one special subject—usually music, art, reading, science, arithmetic, or physical education—to a number of classes. A small but growing number of teachers instruct multilevel classrooms, with students at several different learning levels.

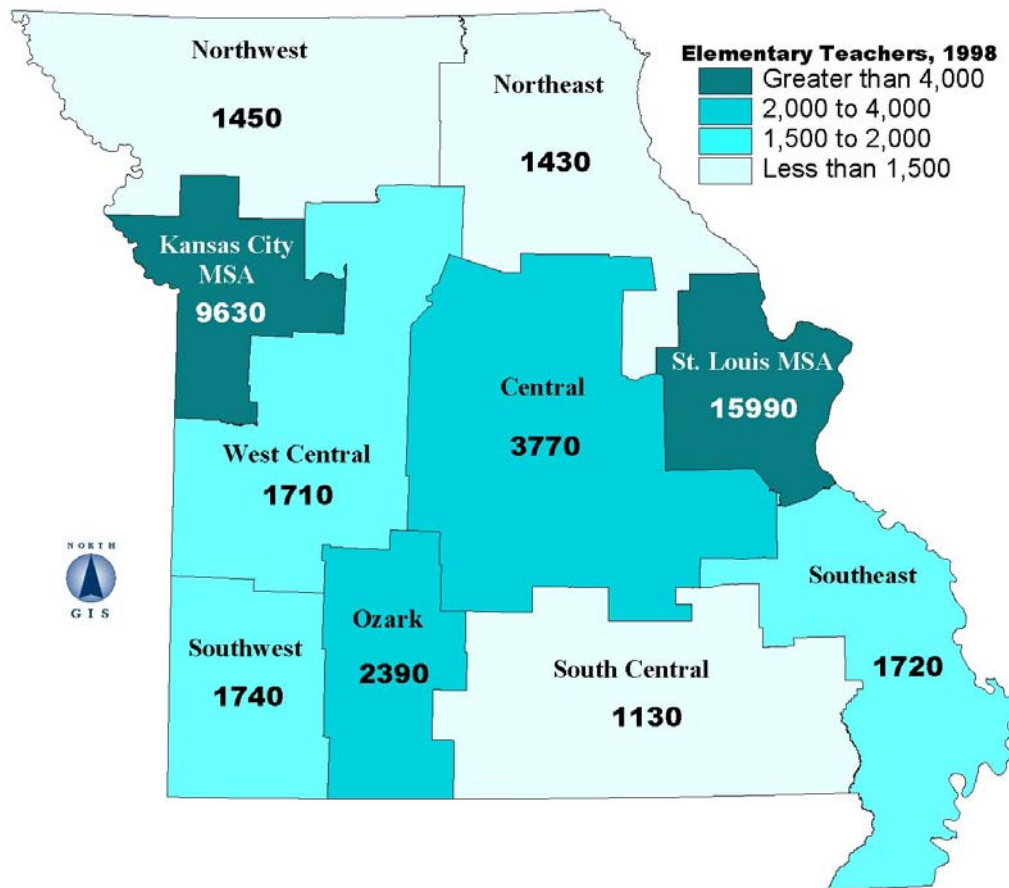
### Employment by Industry



## Employment Trends

Region	Employment		Projected Growth	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings
	1998	2008			
<b>United States</b>	<b>1,754,000</b>	<b>1,959,000</b>	<b>205,000</b>	<b>11.7%</b>	<b>610,000</b>
<b>Missouri</b>	<b>35,100</b>	<b>38,970</b>	<b>3,870</b>	<b>11.0%</b>	<b>1,200</b>
Northwest Region	1,450	1,600	150	10.3%	48
Northeast Region	1,430	1,570	140	9.8%	48
Kansas City MSA	9,630	10,860	1,230	12.8%	346
West Central Region	1,710	1,830	120	7.0%	51
Central Region	3,770	4,210	440	11.7%	130
St. Louis MSA	15,990	17,670	1,680	10.5%	537
Southwest Region	1,740	1,940	200	11.5%	60
Ozark Region	2,390	2,810	420	17.6%	97
South Central Region	1,130	1,300	170	15.4%	43
Southeast Region	1,720	1,870	150	8.7%	55

Source: Missouri Economic Research & Information Center, Projections Unit



## Wage Information

Region	Average Annual Wage
United States	\$41,980
Missouri	\$34,440
Northwest Region	\$30,526
Northeast Region	\$28,812
Kansas City MSA	\$33,590
West Central Region	\$28,762
Central Region	\$30,814
St. Louis MSA	\$39,020
Southwest Region	\$30,749
Ozark Region	\$29,831
South Central Region	\$29,284
Southeast Region	\$32,799

**Elementary Teachers in Missouri make \$34,440 per year, somewhat less than the national average. The occupation requires a baccalaureate and passage of the Certifying examination.**

Source: Missouri Economic Research & Information Center, Occupational Employment Statistics Unit

## Typical Tasks

- Lectures, demonstrates, and uses audiovisual aids and computers to present subject matter.
- Teaches subjects, such as math, science, or social studies.
- Prepares course objectives and outlines, following requirements of state and school.
- Prepares, administers, and corrects tests, and records results.
- Assigns lessons, corrects papers, and hears oral presentations.
- Teaches rules of conduct and maintains discipline and suitable learning environment.
- Evaluates performance and discusses with parents.
- Keeps attendance and grade records.
- Prepares reports as required by school.
- Counsels pupils when adjustment and academic problems arise.

- Supervises outdoor and indoor play activities.
- Teaches combined grade classes.
- Attends staff meetings, serves on committees, and attends workshops or training activities.
- Coordinates class field trips.
- Prepares bulletin boards.

## Skills Needed

- Instructing
- Speaking
- Learning Strategies
- Reading Comprehension
- Social Perceptiveness
- Writing
- Active Listening
- Implementation Planning
- Information Organization
- Monitoring

## Preparation and Licensing Requirements

### Necessary Education

- Baccalaureate Degree
- Recommendation from Approved School
- Early Childhood (Birth to Grade 3)
- Elementary Education (Grades 1 to 6)

### Certification

This occupation requires certification in Missouri. With a recommendation from their school, graduates may apply to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to take Specialty Area Tests. A passing grade is required to teach in Missouri. Re-Certification and advancement of Certification is available upon completion of additional requirements.

### Job Outlook

- Job opportunities for Elementary Teachers should be excellent.
- Employment is expected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations.
- Many vacancies will result from the need to replace retiring teachers.

Intense competition for good teachers is already under way among employers in many locations, with schools luring teachers from other States and districts with bonuses and higher pay. Teachers who are geographically mobile and who obtain licensure in more than one subject should have a distinct advantage in finding a job. Increasing enrollments of minorities, coupled with a shortage of minority teachers, should intensify efforts to recruit minority teachers. Also, the number of non-English speaking students has grown dramatically, creating demand for bilingual teachers and those who teach English as a second language.

### For More Information

**Missouri Economic Research & Information Center**  
**Harry S Truman Building, Room 580**  
**Jefferson City, MO 65102**  
**(573) 522-6261**  
**<http://www.MissouriEconomy.org>**

*Other Sources: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, Missouri CHOICES, O\*Net.*